

# UNITED STATES CLIMATE ALLIANCE

## 2018 STRATEGY

### VISION

The U.S. Climate Alliance will demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change by meeting or exceeding its share of the U.S. contribution to the Paris Agreement goals, and by protecting Americans from the impacts of unavoidable climate change. The Alliance will further inspire climate action in the United States and abroad so that the world may avoid catastrophic climate change by limiting temperature increases to well below 2°C, striving for below 1.5°C.

### COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Each Alliance State commits to:

- Implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025;
- Track and report progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement; and
- Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.

### APPROACH

Through their leadership and state-led tools and initiatives, Alliance Governors can reshape the United States into a low-carbon economy and demonstrate that fighting climate change is a winning strategy for the nation.

The Alliance will accelerate and scale-up near-term emission reductions in the United States by advancing state climate action and collaborating on multi-state approaches to reduce greenhouse emissions. Alliance States are committed to collectively reduce their emissions by at least 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, to make progress toward the United States' commitment under the Paris Agreement, and to do more wherever possible. We do this to inspire in 2020 or before announcements of enhanced ambition by Parties to the Paris Agreement.

Even with drastic emission reductions, some impacts of climate change are unavoidable. To reduce the vulnerability of our communities, ecosystems, and economies to severe weather events and other climate change-related impacts, the Alliance will deepen cooperation among states and other entities to enhance climate resilience.

Core to the Alliance's vision is a commitment to create and maintain U.S. jobs, grow a low-carbon economy, and create opportunities for U.S. firms to provide climate solutions to the world's markets.

By demonstrating and promoting climate leadership at home, the Alliance aims to inspire climate action and discourage backsliding on climate commitments abroad.

## | 2018 FOCUS

In 2018 the Alliance will focus on establishing core organizational capacity; operationalizing Climate Alliance Working Groups; demonstrating tangible progress on priority climate actions; and communicating success. As the Alliance demonstrates success, it will focus on growth and additional steps.

In 2018 the Alliance will focus on the following actions:

### **1. Accelerate the implementation of Alliance State climate priorities and ambitions**

Through dialogue, the sharing of expertise and best practices, and technical cooperation, Alliance States will deliver results in 2018–2020 and serve as models for others.

The Alliance will launch a consortium to bring together state and outside experts that can fill technical assistance gaps to enable *implementation* of state climate policies and programs and deploy low-carbon solutions.

The Alliance also plans to launch a U.S. Climate Alliance Clearinghouse that curates data and tools into a user-friendly, interactive platform. The Clearinghouse will support the development of climate policy and preserve climate-related information at risk of being lost.

### **2. Strengthen business opportunities and job creation in the low-carbon economy**

Alliance States will partner with key groups to help create opportunities for U.S. businesses to tap international markets and attract investment in U.S. low-carbon technology infrastructure. Alliance States also will share their experiences in creating green jobs, identifying and implementing workforce development strategies, and addressing job displacement. By cooperating to improve the resilience of infrastructure, Alliance States will help minimize losses to businesses and communities from severe weather events.

### **3. Scale up climate action domestically and internationally**

Alliance States will help lead the way in scaling up climate action by integrating approaches across states, in the private sector, and beyond national borders. By doing so, the Alliance will help build momentum for high-impact global action.

State-level: Through Climate Alliance Working Groups, Alliance States will identify initiatives that can drive near-term, mid-term and long-term state-level clean energy and climate action. Working Groups will seek opportunities across all sectors of the economy, drawing from progress made in leading states, while engaging partners to share and scale best practices and successful strategies.

National: Given the large number and economic power of Alliance States, the Alliance’s climate efforts can have a national impact. The Alliance will work with non-Alliance states on successful policy models, focusing on the climate benefits and other benefits of specific initiatives. The

Alliance will engage with these states to include them in policy and technical dialogues, while it seeks to add new states as members. The Alliance also can set de-facto national standards or strong market signals throughout the U.S. economy, such as for appliances, vehicles, power generation, and other important climate-related areas. The Alliance will serve as an incubator for national climate action in 2020 or later. By demonstrating that coordinated climate action is good for Americans and the U.S. economy, a willing U.S. administration could build on the Alliance's work to scale up initiatives nationally.

International: Alliance States will cooperate with other countries and subnational jurisdictions to coordinate climate actions that are enhanced through cross-border cooperation.

Multi-stakeholder: By coordinating action with the general public, business community, local governments, nonprofits, foundations and other stakeholders, the Alliance will strive to support stakeholder commitments and make global progress toward achieving priority climate goals.

**4. Communicate climate action by the Alliance and others, both domestically and abroad, to demonstrate and inspire continued leadership**

The Alliance will develop the communications capacity necessary to demonstrate sub-national leadership, and build support for enhanced action and expanded participation.

The Alliance will cooperate with stakeholder coalitions to communicate U.S. climate leadership, support international climate negotiations, discourage backsliding abroad, and increase international recognition of the Alliance states.